

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Listing of claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A refrigeration system including an evaporator arranged in a vehicle compartment, characterized by comprising:

a solenoid valve arranged at an inlet of the evaporator and capable of shutting off a refrigerant passage between an expansion valve and the evaporator when operation of the system is to be stopped and during stoppage of the operation; ~~and~~

a check valve arranged at an outlet of the evaporator, for preventing a refrigerant sucked by a compressor when the operation of the system is to be stopped, from flowing back into the evaporator during the stoppage of the operation; and

a liquid pump arranged in a passage connecting between a bottom of the evaporator and a downstream side of the check valve, the liquid pump being capable of collecting from the evaporator a liquid refrigerant stored therein.

2. (Canceled):

3. (Currently Amended): A method of operation for a refrigeration system used in an automotive air conditioner,

characterized in that when operation of the automotive air conditioner is stopped, a

refrigerant in an evaporator is collected beforehand by sucking the refrigerant in the evaporator and preventing the refrigerant from flowing in the evaporator.

4. (Original): The method of operation for a refrigeration system according to claim 3, characterized in that the collection of the refrigerant is carried out by shutting off a refrigerant passage on an inlet side of the evaporator and operating a compressor for a predetermined time to suck in the refrigerant from the evaporator through a check valve.

5. (Original): The method of operation for a refrigeration system according to claim 4, characterized in that a liquid refrigerant stored in a bottom of the evaporator is collected by an electric motor-driven liquid pump in response to a stop of the operation of the automotive air conditioner, and the liquid pump is stopped on detection of lowering of a load thereof.

6. (Original): The method of operation for a refrigeration system according to claim 3, characterized in that the collection of the refrigerant is carried out by shutting off a refrigerant passage on an inlet side of the evaporator, and deferring, in response to a turn-off operation of an engine key, an engine stop for a predetermined time to operate a compressor for the predetermined time, thereby sucking in the refrigerant from the evaporator through a check valve.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1,111
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7. (Original): The method of operation for a refrigeration system according to claim 6, characterized in that a liquid refrigerant stored in a bottom of the evaporator is collected by an electric motor-driven liquid pump in response to a stop of the operation of the automotive air conditioner, and the liquid pump is stopped on detection of lowering of a load thereof.